## **CLAIMS**

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- 1. A method for attenuating a microorganism which comprises inhibiting in the microorganism a metabolic pathway essential for viability, by promoting use of the substrate of the pathway in a different metabolic pathway which is non-essential to the microorganism whereby the substrate is unavailable to the essential pathway and the micro organism is attenuated.
- 2. A method as claimed in claim 2 and wherein the presence or absence of a nutrient determines whether a metabolic pathway is essential or non-essential to the microorganism.
  - 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein use of the substrate in the non-essential pathway is promoted by inhibition of an enzyme not in the essential pathway.
- 15 4. A method as claimed in claim 4 and wherein the enzyme to be inhibited is a kinase.
  - 5. A method as claimed in claim 4 and wherein the enzyme to be inhibited is isocitrate dehydrogenase (icd1).
- 20 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein the microorganism is Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
  - 7. A method as claimed in claim 6 and wherein the enzyme to be inhibited is pknG.
- 25 8. A method for identifying compounds that attenuate Mycobacterium tuberculosis which method comprises testing compounds in a test system for their ability to bind to *pknG* and prevent autophosphorylation.
- 9. A method for identifying compounds that attenuate Mycobacterium tuberculosis
  30 which method comprises testing compounds in a test system for their ability to bind to pknG and prevent phosphorylation of icd1 or a peptide derived from icd1.

- 10. A method for identifying compounds that attenuate Mycobacterium tuberculosis which method comprises testing compounds in a test system for their ability to bind to *icd1* or a peptide derived from *icd1* and prevent phosphorylation of *icd1* by *pknG*.
- 5 11. A method for identifying compounds that attenuate Mycobacterium tuberculosis which method comprises testing compounds in a test system for their ability to prevent the phosphorylation and or inactivation of *icd1*.
- 12. An anti-microbacterial compound identified according to the method of any one of claims 8-11.